

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of preventing reduction of sales amount of records due to a digital music file illegally distributed 5 through a communication network, comprising the steps of:

a) producing an advertising digital music file by deteriorating or damaging a sound quality of an original music file of a record of a cooperating record corporation; and

10 b) distributing the advertising digital music file through the communication network.

2. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at step a) the advertising digital music file is generated by inserting noise component such as a voice of a singer or 15 performer in the original music file, thereby damaging the sound quality.

3. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at step a) the advertising digital music file is generated by lowering 20 a sampling rate of the digital music file to below that of the original music file, thereby deteriorating the sound quality.

4. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at step a) the advertising digital music file is generated by 25 distorting the waveform of the original music using a function

such as a "cut", "copy", or etc., thereby damaging the sound quality.

5. The method as set forth in claim 1, wherein at step  
5 a) the advertising digital music file is generated by  
converting a multi-channel sound of the original music to a  
single-channel sound, thereby deteriorating the sound quality.

6. A method of preventing reduction of sales amount of  
10 records due to a digital music file illegally distributed  
through a communication network, comprising the steps of:

a) collecting an illegally produced digital music file,  
which is derived from a record of a cooperating record  
corporation by searching the communication network;  
15 b) editing the collected digital music file to deteriorate  
or damage the sound quality of it; and  
c) distributing the edited digital music file through the  
communication network again.

20 7. The method as set forth in claim 6 wherein at step a)  
the collected music file is edited by inserting noise  
component such as a voice of a singer or performer in the  
collected music file, thereby damaging the sound quality of  
the illegally produced music file.

8. The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein at step  
a) the collected music file is edited by lowering a sampling  
rate of the collected music file to below that of an original  
music file, thereby deteriorating the sound quality of the  
5 illegally produced music file.

9. The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein at step  
a) the collected music file is edited by distorting the  
waveform of the collected music using a function such as  
10 "cut", "copy", or etc., thereby damaging the sound quality of  
the illegally produced music file.

10. The method as set forth in claim 6, wherein at step  
a) the collected music file is edited by converting a multi-  
15 channel sound of the collected music file to a single-channel  
sound, thereby deteriorating the sound quality of the  
illegally produced music file.